The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 25 January 1968
DAILY BRIEF
25 JANUARY 1968

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2. South Vietnam
   Some members of the lower House may be planning to dabble in peace efforts.

3. Laos
   Over a week after the debacle at Nam Bac, the government still cannot account for more than half of the troops deployed there. Large stocks of heavy weapons, ammunition, and other equipment were also lost. We do not believe that the Communists intend to drive far south from Nam Bac, but they are stepping up their annual dry-season campaign against government guerrilla bases in the northeast.
FOR THE PRESIDENT’S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Kosygin to Hanoi?:

Premier Kosygin will go on to Hanoi after his visit to New Delhi later this week. Such a visit could be timed to coincide with the Tet bombing pause. The last high-level Soviet visit to Hanoi was in January 1966, when Politburo member Shelepin led a delegation to North Vietnam during the 37-day pause. The current US-Korean trouble could alter any plans Kosygin might have.

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Hanoi Holds the Line: North Vietnam seems unwilling to go any further in publicly elaborating on its position concerning talks with the US. After strongly denouncing President Johnson's restatement of the San Antonio formula in his State of the Union message, North Vietnamese media generally have concentrated on presenting Hanoi's usual hard-line treatment of the war and ignored the issue of negotiations.

On 22 January, Mai Van Bo, who last week publicly stressed the positive aspects of Hanoi's position, cancelled a scheduled interview because he had "said everything he had to say up to now."
Hanoi still has not endorsed Mai Van Bo's off-the-record interview with a French journalist on 17 January. His remarks at that time may have exceeded the bounds of what Hanoi wants said in public.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.